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DN EXTRA

July 2005



Mind the gaps

Deaf people's tube fears

If London gets the Games...

Capital access hopes

Spreading its wings

Chicken Shed's new Russian venture

DN EXTRA...

editorial

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2012 Olympics could create access legacy

The organisers of London's bid to host the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics met with disability campaigners last month to discuss how to ensure the Games included all disabled people.

Members of disability organisations throughout London made recommendations for improving inclusion in transport, employment, the built environment and training, and how to create a lasting legacy from the Games.

Recommendations from the 2012 Forum Disability Sub-Group included bringing forward the 2020 deadline by which all trains must be fully accessible.

The group also suggested having travel buddies to accompany disabled people to and from sporting venues, and disability awareness training for all staff involved in the Games.

Ruth Bashall, treasurer of Disability Action in Waltham Forest, told *DN*: "It's going to take a lot of work to make sure all the measures are implemented. First, there needs to be an understanding of what inclusion is about."

Tony Sainsbury, the Paralympic Games project manager, said: "The recommendations if implemented would make a world of difference to the lives of people in the community, not just disabled people."

A decision on London's bid to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012 will be announced on July 6 at 12.45pm and will be covered live on ITV and BBC.

RNIB campaign conference row

The RNIB has been accused of pulling out of a higher education conference to benefit blind students because its own Right to Read campaign was not worked into the agenda.

Peter Nicholson, founder of the Sound, Sense and Vision Trust, said he organised the event with the RNIB out of concern for the long delays blind and partially sighted students face in securing course reading material in accessible formats.

The two charities, along with the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), initially agreed to raise awareness and encourage publishing companies to provide academic texts electronically.

But Mr Nicholson said he was enraged when, three weeks before the event, the RNIB tried to renegotiate the press release and include Right to Read,

which aims to make all books available in electronic format.

Mr Nicholson said: "This was always an unworkable, uneconomic solution. Let's ask publishers for something reasonable and monitorable."

But an RNIB spokesman denied a change of course and said the charity had pulled out because their relationship with Mr Nicholson had broken down. He said: "From the point of conception we knew we were coming from different points of view."

He said the only mention of Right to Read was in an email to UCLAN's press office from the head of the campaign – who was involved in planning the conference.

"At no time and in no way was it our intention to push the Right to Read campaign," he said.



Care package: Josie Brown, a full-time carer, launches *Better Care in Islington*, the north London borough's new twice-yearly magazine for carers, people receiving care and professionals. The first issue was launched during Carers Week last month and includes news and information about services and initiatives for carers. There is also an interview with Mrs Brown about her experiences as a carer for her son, who has learning difficulties.

On the cover: Presenter Jill Daley in the main studio at VIP ON AIR, the Scottish radio station for visually impaired people. The studio is the first in the UK to be fully accessible to blind and partially sighted people. Telecommunications regulator OFCOM agreed last month to grant an on-air licence to the station, which currently broadcasts only on the internet from its Glasgow studios.

Tube safety call

Deaf people often feel vulnerable and unsafe when using public transport in London, because emergency procedures and passenger instructions rely on audible information, says a new report.

Transport for All, published by the RNID last month, found nearly two fifths of deaf and hard of hearing people felt vulnerable when using the Underground.

Nearly ten per cent had been trapped in the doors of tube trains because they could not hear the noise they make when closing.

Electronic information systems on platforms and many tube trains are not used to pass on updated travel or emergency information.

Dr John Low, RNID's chief executive, said: "It is really astounding that in the 21st century, one of the world's largest transport systems still relies

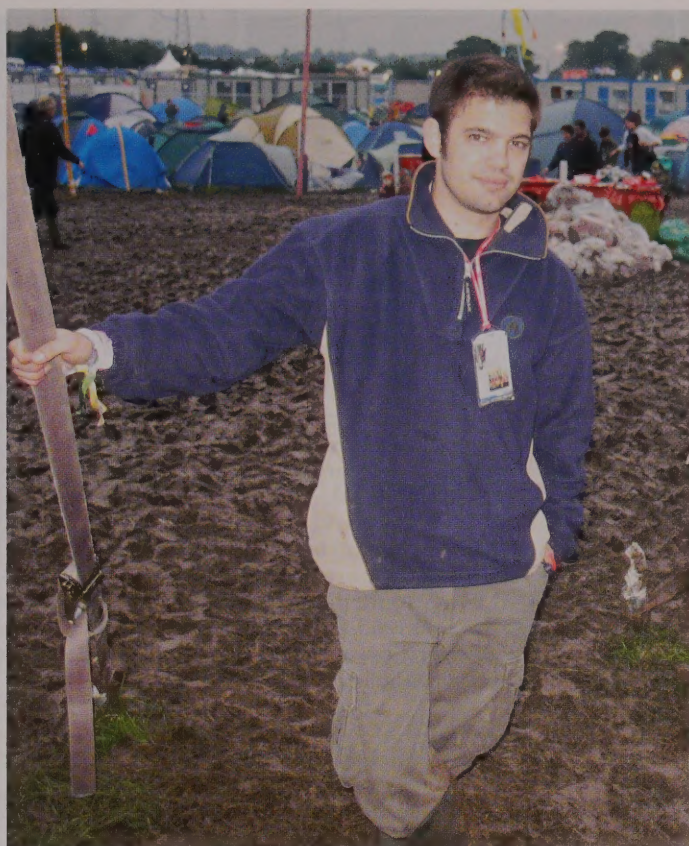
almost entirely on its passengers being able to hear."

He called for a review of emergency procedures; for visual, real-time information; and for all frontline public transport staff to receive recognised deaf awareness training.

A Transport for London (TfL) spokesman said the Underground has suffered "decades of under-investment" but there would be new, more accessible trains on five lines from 2009.

He said all frontline bus and Underground staff were receiving disability awareness training, and there would be more induction loops on the Underground and an updated visual display system on the bus network.

TfL will re-examine its safety and evacuation procedures for hearing-impaired passengers, he added.



Mud lark: DN's Jamie Trounce at last month's Glastonbury Festival. See August's DN for our two-page feature on access at the summer festivals.

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Theatre of dreams: Volunteers and users of Bristol Old Vic's audio description service, with the theatre's RNIB Simply the Best award. Other winners of the charity's annual awards for improving access for visually impaired people included Torbay Council, Crewkerne Aqua Centre, Brewers Fayre, Greater Manchester Passenger Travel Executive, National Express Coaches and Software Express.

September's issue of *Disability Now* will include our annual education supplement, packed full of features about schools, further and higher education and training. But we want our readers to play their part, too, so we are setting up a panel of experts to answer your questions about education issues. Whether you want to know about access, special schools, adult education, inclusion, statements of special educational needs or distance learning, we want to hear from you. Email your questions to sarah.hobson@scope.org.uk or tel 020 7619 7324.



Right to roam: Rosie Norris, left, and Sue Watson, from the Disabled Ramblers (DR), were at the Long Man in East Sussex to launch a new Mobile Support Unit to help people with impaired mobility enjoy the new rights of open access to the countryside. The Countryside Agency, DR members and scooter manufacturer Beamer funded a mobile toilet, two new all-terrain buggies and an updated website (www.disabledramblers.co.uk).

Joan's care hell

A disabled woman is facing possible court action after she rebelled over her council's failure to provide her with the care she needs.

Joan Wade, who has cerebral palsy and arthritis, moved to Worthing in West Sussex from Kingston, south-west London, after her mother died three years ago.

She had been receiving 20 hours a week of care in Kingston and was paying a contribution of £33 a week.

But West Sussex County Council decided she needed just 45 minutes of help every morning, although this increased to one hour in April.

She now has to pay £29 a week to West Sussex and £50 to £60 a week for the extra outside help she needs.

Ms Wade lives on interest from her savings. She owes the council £1,000 but is refusing to pay, even though it is threatening to take her to court.

She said: "I should have the right to move from one place to another, knowing that I would be cared for."

"I had absolutely no idea when I left my house in Kingston that I would have to face all of this. It's been three years of hell. I wouldn't recommend anyone to come to West Sussex."

West Sussex admitted it had threatened court action, but said it was "not at present proposing that that is the action taken".

A spokeswoman said Ms Wade's "assessed needs didn't meet the eligibility criteria for the support she was requesting".



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Sign of things to come: Daniel Patrick talks to Liz Ball using the deafblind manual alphabet and Rhys Fullick takes part in a workshop at the 50th anniversary conference of the deafblind charity Sense, held in Buckinghamshire last month. Sense is holding a series of events aimed at picturing the future for deafblind people.

Futurebuilders aims to improve public service delivery through long term investment in the voluntary and community sector in England

Futurebuilders is a £125million Home Office backed investment fund that was established by a consortium comprising Charity Bank, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, Northern Rock Foundation and Unity Trust Bank. Following its successful launch last year it is looking to increase its Investment Committee by two members.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (x2) £3,500 per annum + Travel expenses London and Nationwide

The Futurebuilders Investment Committee is a sub committee of the Futurebuilders England Board that makes recommendations on all investments over £20,000. The committee meets once a month, primarily in London but on occasions nationally and members are also expected to attend the annual conference and Board Away Day. The appointment term is initially until June 2007.

Applications are invited from individuals who, in particular, add value in:

- Procurement and purchasing, which should ideally be in Futurebuilders' five public service delivery areas, or have
- Prior 'hands on' experience at senior management level in the voluntary and community sector.

In addition candidates should have a good awareness of financial issues.

For further information about the post, please visit Futurebuilders' website. Deadline for applications is July 22nd 2005, with a view to the two successful appointments being in place for the September Investment Committee meeting. To apply please forward your CV and a supporting statement detailing why you wish to apply to futurebuilders@tpp.co.uk or call Rebecca Craddock or Nick Bull at The Principle Partnership on 020 7940 4175 quoting ref FBDN.

Futurebuilders is seeking to increase the diversity of the committee and would particularly welcome applications from women, the disabled and ethnic minority communities.

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Visa blunder

A woman with cerebral palsy was left high and dry after a young Australian who had been helping her at home was suddenly deported.

Valerie Lang, aged 65, a former Scope trustee from north London, had been providing Lisa Rideout with free accommodation in return for about 10 hours of help per week.

Ms Rideout had spent two years in the UK on a working visa, but when she returned from a trip to Cyprus, intending to ask for a holiday visa, she was deported to Australia.

Immigration officials at Heathrow Airport suspected she would work illegally but refused to check her story.

They also failed to warn Miss Lang, who had to rely on friends

and neighbours to help her for five weeks while she looked for another young person to share her home.

She has now written to the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, to complain about the case.

She said: "I was lucky my friends and neighbours rallied round. On past occasions when I have been on my own I have broken bones, so it was intimidating and it was without warning.

"I think it is appalling. I feel that no one in authority cared whether I lived or died."

A Home Office spokeswoman was unable to discuss individual cases, but said someone who leaves after a work visa and returns as a tourist would "have to sufficiently show that they are just visiting as a tourist".

It will be several months before *Disability Now* appoints a new editor, but in the meantime we want to hear your views about our newspaper.

On 12 July, we will be putting a survey on our website, asking our readers what they like and dislike about *DN*. The survey will also appear in our August issue.

Please take a few minutes to fill in the questionnaire to make sure your views influence the future of *DN*.

There will also be three chances to win a bottle of champagne and £25 worth of Marks and Spencer vouchers.

To access the survey, from 12 July, visit www.disabilitynow.org.uk or see August's *DN*.

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To Russia with love

The inclusive theatre company Chicken Shed is spreading its wings with a new project in partnership with disability campaigners in Russia. John Pring reports

It is one of the world's great cultural cities, but many disabled people in St Petersburg in Russia are still condemned to live in vast institutions.

Now the British theatre company Chicken Shed is hoping that a new project will help to spread the message of inclusion across St Petersburg – and Russia – and help more disabled people to live independently.

Over the next two years, Chicken Shed will help disability campaigners in St Petersburg set up a programme of inclusive evening drama workshops for children.

They hope to sign up about 100 children from the city's schools, about a third of whom will be disabled, and work towards a first performance in April 2007.

Chicken Shed has built up 19 projects across the UK over the 31 years since it was founded in north London, and has its own accessible theatre complex.

But the chance to spread its wings further afield came through one of its longest-standing supporters, David Conway, a development aid project consultant for the European Union, whose own children had attended Chicken Shed projects.

With his help and that of his wife, Nadia, a former Mayor of Enfield, the company secured European Union funding for a two-year project that will see a series of cultural and training exchange visits between Chicken Shed, members of Gaoordi (the St Petersburg Association of Societies of Parents with Disabled Children) and the Russian Spida Bifida Association.

The first return visit of the St

Petersburg team will be early this month, when they attend the Middlesex University/Chicken Shed Summer School programme as part of their training.

The new joint project has been named Piter Shed, Piter being the city's local nickname.

John Bull, executive director of Chicken Shed's Inclusive Theatre Training and Development Programme, has just returned with colleagues from a trip to St Petersburg.

"Gaoordi seemed like ideal partners," he says. "They want to have an impact on society and the culture. People can be valued and do not have to be put into institutions."

He says there are many artistic groups in St Petersburg working in the mainstream arts field and in disability arts, but none working to bring the two together.

"We know that this is one of the greatest cultural cities in the world and we are very excited by the prospect of sharing one another's practice and introducing our ideas of inclusion."

"This is the next step in spreading the inclusive theatre movement beyond our shores. We are going to help to play a vital role in developing inclusive activities in the community that will truly help them to play their part in society, for the benefit of everyone, just as we have done at Chicken Shed."

Bull says Chicken Shed will not need to make too many changes to its standard training programme, although it will be



Above: Performers in an art "installation" in St Petersburg

Right: John Bull meets one of the residents of House Number One



slightly more basic to take account of the language differences. "We have translators. People are the same the world over," he says.

During their visit to St Petersburg, the Chicken Shed team were shown around House Number One, an 800-bed residential home for disabled children.

Bull says: "Hopefully we can show that children should not be put in large institutions. The idea is they act as a catalyst and a training base and other people from other areas of Russia will come and train with them. The whole objective is to raise awareness in Russia."

He says there is a real enthusiasm for inclusion among their partners and other supporters in St Petersburg.

"From people I have met, they have a real problem with people

being separated into institutions and they want to change that. Everybody seemed to be very keen to make a change."

This view was even echoed, he says, by a senior politician in St Petersburg's department of culture.

As for the future, Bull says Chicken Shed could eventually expand to other countries. "Providing we feel there is a commitment to the philosophy and it is going to make a difference then we will go wherever, within our resources, of course."

But for now, he and Chicken Shed are hoping to make an impact in St Petersburg. "Drama is such a powerful way that people can achieve and work together," he says. "We want to make a splash."

* Tel: 020 8351 6161, www.chickenshed.org.uk

Advocating for Equality

Scope's mission is to drive the change to make our society the first where disabled people achieve equality. We are a leading disability organisation focusing on people with cerebral palsy, providing services throughout England and Wales.

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The organisation has an income of approximately £110,000 and derives most of its core funding from the London Borough of Lewisham. It currently employs two staff and has three volunteers.

The Director, reporting to the Board of Trustees, will be responsible for managing, developing, monitoring and evaluating LDC services. This is why your experience of working with and within the voluntary sector would come in useful, as would your understanding of charity governance and related legislation.

As a successful candidate, you will need to demonstrate

drive, initiative, creativity, partnership working, leadership and excellent interpersonal skills. With at least one year's experience and ideally with management responsibilities, you will have experience in campaigning, advocacy, advice work or social policy.

Essential requirements are a direct experience of the Disability Movement and knowledge of the voluntary sector, charity governance and company law.

LDC is committed to equal opportunities. We particularly welcome applications from disabled people and guarantee interviews to suitably qualified disabled applicants.

If you are interested in this position please telephone Lewisham Disability Coalition on 0208 314 1414 or email senaitldc@hotmail.com for further details.

Closing date 5 August 05, interviews will be held in September 05.

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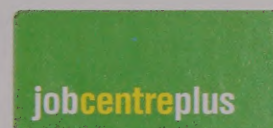
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the disability employment advisory committee

DWP Department for Work and Pensions

The Department is inviting applications for new DEAC Members...

to the Committee to enable it to continue providing advice to government, from a diverse and balanced perspective, on disability employment issues. We particularly wish to encourage applicants from black and minority ethnic groups and disabled people. We would welcome applications from, but not exclusively, employers and providers of disability services, the public and private sectors, trade unions, and disability organisations across GB, particularly Scotland and Wales.

The Disability Employment Advisory Committee (DEAC) is a nationally (GB) focused committee established in 2002 to:

- offer strategic, confidential advice to Ministers and officials in DWP and Jobcentre Plus, on the employment of disabled people; and
- provide advice to Ministers on the barriers that disabled people face across Britain in getting and keeping employment.

- make recommendations on the support needed to overcome these barriers; and

- give confidential advice on how government policies and its specialist and mainstream programmes can be as effective as possible in helping disabled people to find and keep work.

Applicants must:

- have an understanding of a range of current employment issues, with an appreciation of the concerns of disabled people and how these interact within employment;
- be able to comment on policy proposals and research; and
- have good communication and interpersonal skills and be able to work as part of a team.

We would like applicants to:

- be able to undertake projects and occasional public engagements if required;
- have credibility with disability organisations and others; and
- have some knowledge of Jobcentre Plus Welfare to Work programmes.

The posts are on a voluntary basis, but an amount for loss of earnings will be paid where appropriate and relevant expenses will be reimbursed. Members are appointed for a term of three years and attend three main meetings a year, with occasional additional meetings and events totalling approximately 20 days per year.

If you have any questions about DEAC and being a Committee Member, or you want further information and application details, please telephone 0114 267 7432 (Typetalk calls welcomed) or write to **DEAC Secretariat, DWP, N809 Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PQ** or email: pat.farrar@dpw.gsi.gov.uk Information is available in alternative formats and on our website: www.deac.org.uk The closing date for receipt of applications is 1 August 2005.



A large print version of this advert is available.





THE BRITISH COUNCIL OF DISABLED PEOPLE

BCODP is the National umbrella organization for groups of disabled people. Due to securing funding from the Big Lottery for a Membership and Services Project

"Moving on Up"

We are now wishing to recruit the following staff:

Membership and Services Manager: Salary Scale SO2 Points 32-34 (£24,708 - £26,157), three year fixed term project, to be responsible for the setting up and delivery of the project, supervising one part-time paid staff member and two volunteers.

Membership and Services – Part-time Administration Assistant: Salary Scale SCP points 11-13 pro rata (£8,771 - £9,305 for 25 hours per week). Three year fixed term project. To be responsible for providing clerical and administrative support to the Membership and Services Project.

Development Officer (Campaigns, Press and Parliamentary): Grade SO2 points 32-34 (£24,708 - £26,157) Job-share 17.5 hours per week. Initial contract until August 2007 with extension subject to funding.

Applicants for all the above posts must be disabled persons and must have the appropriate skills and commitment. The Membership and Services Project will operate from BCODP's Derby Office.

Closing Date: 22nd July, 2005

Interviews: 17th and/or 18th August, 2005.

Application packs are available from Kevin Towler, BCODP, Litchurch Plaza, Litchurch Lane, Derby DE24 8AA. Telephone: **01332 295551** email: kevint@bcdp.org.uk Minicom: **01332 295581**

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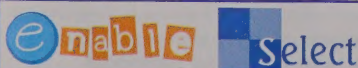
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Jacksons Lane are currently looking for an experienced programmer and project manager to run XPOSURE – its disability arts festival in November of this year.

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DEADLINE - Disability Now
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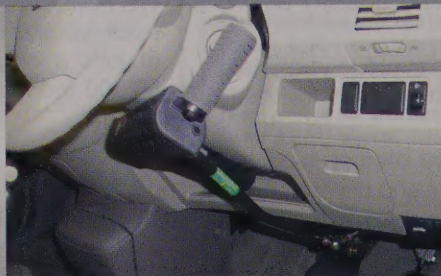
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